

SECRET/SENSITIVE

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July 1974

TO: AMBASSADOR HELMS, TEHERAN, EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT, THE WHITE HOUSE

REFERENCE: TEHERAN 930

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

Your message outlined the situation and likely developments very clearly. As you know, only shortly thereafter we received a message from Barzani predictably appealing for more help.

When we increased our total contribution and added the special \$1 million contribution for refugee relief, we concluded that our effort had reached a level which could not be further increased in any significant way without very high risk of disclosure. On the basis of your cable and the Barzani request, we reassessed the whole picture again and came to the same conclusion. We are about at the limit and to go farther would risk all that has been done so far.

Nonetheless, we recognize that the Kurds do need help, and we want to do what we can, not only because they continue to keep worthwhile pressure on the Baath government but also to evidence our continuing support for the Shah.

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We are working on the possibilities for increasing media focus on the war and its effects on the Kurds. We also are looking into additional refugee relief through overt means and hope to be able to generate some support for the Iranians in this effort. We will keep you advised of progress.

Please forgive the delay in response. As you can imagine, we were heavily occupied, but want to assure you that your concerns were recognized and being acted upon. Dick Kennedy continues to follow this closely as he has from the beginning.

Warm regards.

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